Cheap Magazines.

The London *Spectator* says: 'In place of *Frazer* Messrs. Longman intend to try an experiment in cheap literature, a magazine of 120 pages, discussing every subject except politics and religion, conveying information, and lightened with good novels, but sold for sixpence. Such a magazine, if well done, should be a sixpenny *Cornhill*, and obtain a quarter of a million of readers. In the changed conditions produced by the spread of education, such an experiment is nearly sure to succeed; as would also, as we believe, a sixpenny *Nineteenth Century*, devoted mainly to politics and religion. The body of readers begin to tolerate grave thought and even to pay for it, to an extent which publishers as yet hardly estimate."

Health Hints.

A warm bath on going to bed is the best aid to sleep. A woman under fifty should have eight hours of sleep.

To cure earache, take one drop of watch-maker's oil and drop it in the ear; if that is not to be had, a pinch of black pepper, put on a small piece of cotton-batting and dipped in sweet oil, placed in the ear and a bandage tied around the head, is said to give almost instant relief.

A very simple relief for neuralgia is to boil a handful of lobelia in half a pint of water till the strength is out of the herb, then strain off and add a teaspoonful of fine salt. Wring cloths out of the liquid as hot as possible, and spread it over the part affected. It acts like a charm. Change the cloths as soon as cold till the pain is all gone; then cover the place with soft dry covering till perspiration is over, so as to prevent taking cold.

Our Earnings and Savings.

According to Mr. Edward Atkinson, but half of the 52,000,000 people in the United States can be reckoned in the working force of the nation. The earnings of this working force, male and female, cannot exceed an average of $1 a day each for the 365 days of the year, so that the annual income of these people, in round numbers, is $10,000,000,000. He estimates that the sustenance of our population averages forty-five cents a day for each man, woman and child, so that ninety cents of every dollar earned is consumed, leaving but ten per cent of the annual earnings to maintain existing capital, and increase the nation's wealth. His opinion is that the increase in wealth is less than $500,000,000 annually. His purpose in this exhibit is to encourage economy. Learn to work more thoroughly, more savingly; to raise as much as possible with as little waste as possible, is his injunction. The lesson which he teaches is the one which of all the peoples on earth the people of the United States need to learn.

The Merchant Navy.

There is a wide-spread impression that the decline in the ship-building and ocean-carrying trade began with the Civil War and was occasioned by the Confederate cruisers; but in a recently published book, Mr. David A. Wells declares that the influence of these agencies has been greatly exaggerated.

They simply furthered a process of decadence which had previously set in, and the primary cause of the decline was, in Mr. Wells's opinion, the substitution of steamers for sailing vessels.

While the latter were built of wood, the American, could compete with the English in constructing them; but experience taught the builders that iron vessels are better adapted to bear the strain of steam machinery, and that wood is unfit for large vessels propelled by screws. The appliances for the construction of iron vessels did not exist in the United States, and it was predicted in 1857 that England, being able to construct such steamers more cheaply than any other country, would monopolize ocean steam navigation.

The remedy, in Mr. Wells's opinion, is in the repeal of the navigation laws which handicap American shipping, and in the reduction of all expenses connected with the hiring and discharge of seamen, pilotage, consular charges, etc.; but he concludes that a reform of the tariff is also indispensable.

Prince Albert Coats For Ladies.

The oddest fashionable thing this fall, remarks "Clara Belle" in a letter from New York to the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, is that some of us are putting on Prince Albert coats. Everybody knows how stiff and awkward a man often looks in that conventional garment. Well, it will speak volumes for the inherent grace of women if they can wear it prettily, and I am inclined to think they can do so. The Prince Albert frock-coat, as worn by men for dress occasions in the daytime, is almost literally copied in women's cloth suits. This coat when feminized is medium long, double-breasted, buttoned from collar to waist line. has very slight plaiting in the middle back seam, with two buttons defining the waist; and is finished with silk binding, or with faced cut edges, precisely as men's coats are. Of course, the contour is quite different, but, for all that, the likeness is preserved. The tailor-made cloth suits usually worn with these coats are very little changed in style. The basque retains the habit shape, with single-breasted front, high cadet collar, square postilion back, slit pockets with arrow-heads worked at the ends, and stitched edges. The overskirt has a wrinkled arm and single back drapery. The lower skirt is ornamented by three plaited fans, let in from the lines down on the front and side gores; or else there are triangular points cut in the bottom of the skirt to fall on a plaited flounce at the foot. It will be seen that the style is rather severe, and it should be left to softly-rounded if not absolutely pretty women, for its tendency is to heighten angularities. Smooth-finished ladies' cloth serge cloth with fine twills, and mottled cloths and cheviots are the materials used, and the favorite colors are old green, dark brown, olive, black, and deep blue. If fur bands were to be added, as they very likely will be next winter, such suits would do for a larger number of women than can at present find them becoming.

Memorial Hall, erected by Philadelphia for the exhibition of 1876 at an expense of $1,500,000, is falling to ruin.

The Daily Press.

The daily newspaper office is never closed. Night and day, the newspaper office is never deserted. There is always somebody awake about the building. At noon the work of the editors begins, and ceases not until two and three o'clock the next morning. At sunset the type-setters begin, and do not leave off until three and four o'clock the following morning. When the type-setters leave off, the pressmen take hold and work on until sunrise. Before their labors close, the folders, packers and mailing-clerks come on duty. By this time the counting-room is on deck, and every floor of the office building has one or more, and, as a rule, a half-dozen occupants all day. It would be impossible, therefore, for a newspaper office to take fire without being observed in time to prevent a disaster. There is nothing really combustible about a printing-office but the paper, and that is never stored in very large quantity in the building and is always tightly baled and not easy to take fire.

Tissandier's Electric Balloon.

The large electric balloon projected by M. Tissandier is to have the following dimensions: The electric machine is to weigh 500 pounds, and the secondary batteries 1,700 pounds, representing about 5 horse-power. These will be carried by an elliptical balloon of a volume of 106,000 cubic feet. The balloon is to be 131 feet long, and its diameter in the center 60.7 feet. The balloon would have a lifting-power of 3½ tons, and consequently would be able to support 1-ton weight of passengers, ballast, etc., beside the batteries and machinery. With the air calm, its speed would be from 12 to 15 miles per hour, which, of course, could be maintained for only a few hours. M. Tissandier intends constructing such a balloon shortly, and undertaking voyages with it over and around Paris. The problem of aerial navigation can by no means be considered as solved with this balloon. Even if the first experiments should not give satisfactory results, some advantage will be gained by the general evidence they will supply of the practicability of the idea.—*London Builder.*

Plymouth Rock.

"Plymouth Rock," which has served as a text for so much spread eagle oratory, is an object of historic interest, in spite of its present prosaic surroundings. The rock, which is a large bowlder of gray granite, lies imbedded just where it was when the pilgrim band leaped from the Mayflower upon it. But the filling up of the water front for wharves has changed the whole aspect of the shore from what it was, and even at high tide the rock is nearly forty feet from the water's edge. In 1775, in the first flush of revolutionary enthusiasm, the citizens of Plymouth removed the upper part of the rock to the town square. In raising it, it split apart, and the omen was considered significant of the final separation of the colonies from the English crown. On the Fourth of July, 1834, it was carried in procession and deposited in front of Pilgrim's Hall, where it remained until September 27, 1880, when it was carried back into its original resting place by the water side, covered with an arched canopy of granite, and protected by an iron fence. The entrance to the inclosure is kept barred and locked at night, and the figures 1620, which are cut on the sloping side of the rock, serve to perpetuate the historic tradition of the spot.

Egyptian Bondholders.

Vanity Fair receives the following communication from "A Fortunate Speculator," who says: "Although your paper has almost alone been independent enough to critize hostility to Mr. Gladstone's Egyptian policy, now so popular both with the jingo, and the imitation jingo parties, I think even you must admit that this policy, damaging though it has been to the liberal party in this country, and utterly ruinous though it has been to the national party in Egypt, yet has been a perfect god-send to one large and deserving class in this country and France—namely, the poor Egyptian bondholder. I will relate my own experience as a bondholder within the last three months. I have no doubt but that it is a fair sample of what others have done; and your readers will not be surprised to hear that I entertain the highest feelings of gratitude for Mr. Gladstone's spirited Egyptian policy. On the first outbreak of the Arabi rebellion I sold my Egyptian bonds at 70, never thinking it possible that a Gladstone and Bright government would force upon any nation a ruler and a form of government to which they were unanimously opposed. However, in a few weeks I changed my opinion. Alexandria was bombarded. Bright resigned, the guards were put under orders for Egypt, our one general buckled on his sword and I bought back my bonds at 46—with some trepidation, I confess. However, events marched quickly. The Indian troops were brought over again by Lord Beaconsfield's worthy successor, the much-abused Cyprus was utilized as a base, the Suez canal was seized in defiance of all international agreements, the unfortunate Egyptians were mown down by shrapnel shell from Woolwich and the sabres of the Life guards. Tel-el-Kebir was fought, Cairo was entered by our army amid the curses of its population, and my Egyptian bonds went up to 70 again, the price at which I sold originally. I have now sold again, and shall reinvest my capital in something safer than unified bonds; but by Gladstone's policy I made 24 per cent. by the fall and 24 per cent. by the rise, and I now have in cash at my bankers' £1,189 to represent every £700 I had invested in Egyptian bonds. Can you be surprised at my gratitude to Beaconsfield's worthy successor in eastern policy—William Gladstone? Something should be done to hand down to posterity a mark of the bondholders' gratitude, and I propose that a statue of the Grand Old Man should be erected at the entrance of the stock exchange. To this I will gladly subscribe, as I am sure would many Egyptian bondholders."

The noble red man of Washington Territory has found pleasant and profitable employment in hop picking. More than 2,000 of them are so engaged at Puyallup. "Injun pu' all-up all samee pale face."

"Hardening the Body."

A young man was an earnest advocate of a theory that the human body can accommodate itself to any temperature in which it may be placed. One winter he determined to harden himself by wearing no covering for his ears; they were badly frozen on a very cold day, and were tender for several years after. He grew wise and abandoned the hardening process.

A young woman heard an eloquent lecture on the importance of fresh air in chambers at night. The lecturer said there was no danger from a window slightly opened; the body would soon harden itself so as to resist the effect of the exposure. She tried the experiment one cold night and caught a severe cold, which lasted the entire winter. She lost faith in hardening against the cold. A young mother maintained that children ought not to be brought up too tenderly. Arms and legs ought to be hardened by exposure in early years, and not be made tender by warm coverings in winter. She lost her two children by croup and pneumonia, induced, as the physician said, by insufficient clothing. She gave up the attempt to harden the other.

The best way to harden the body is to protect it well from extremes both of cold and heat, and build up a strong constitution by good food, good sleep and good exercise. The Scotch Highlanders, with their bare legs, are victims to rheumatism.

Ralston's Summer Home.

The Ralston house at Belmont, Cal., now in the possession of Senator Sharon, is that perhaps having the greatest interest of all. The remarkable man who built it was of the traditional California type in its most astonishing development. Starting from a humble origin, he became a forwarder of every brilliant scheme of improvement, public and private, and conducted a hundred projects to success, which, in other hands, would have been sheer folly. He arrived thus at an unbounded confidence in his star. Entangled finally, while Cashier of the Bank of California, he handed in his resignation to the Directors one day, and went down to the public baths near the Potrero. A strong, athletic man, in the prime of life, he swam out half a mile into the bay—for refreshment in his troubles, as some say, but, as the general opinion is, with the deliberate purpose of suicide—and was never again seen alive. The house that was his is notched into a hill-side, in a rolling country, much pleasanter than the plain at Menlo Park. A pretty gorge behind it is dammed at a certain level to furnish the water supply. There are gas-works, a bowling-alley, and an elaborate Turkish bath among the outbuildings, and a grange-like barn of solid stone, ivy-grown now, which cost $80,000. As to the immense residence itself, that is of wood, white, in the usual fashion. With its numerous stories and windows, it is not unlike a large country hotel without, but its peculiar arrangements and great spaciousness within make it quite palatial. The principal rooms open into one another by glass partitions, which can be rolled away. There is no crowding through doorways. There is an arcade in the story above, around the grand staircase, with a balustrade, and tribunes projecting from the balustrade, in which young women in pink and corn-color at an evening party must look particularly houri-like. What in any other house would be the ordinary veranda is here a delightful promenade, glazed in, provided with easy furniture and a parquetry floor. Then comes a tier of such main apartments as a drawing-room and library; then a parallel tier, of which one is a great gallery, entirely faced with mirrors. There are a piano, mantels, and stair-posts of California laurel.—*W. H. Bishop, in Harper's for October.*

What Are the Tides?

Sir W. Thompson, in a recent address found some difficulty in explaining the tides, which he defined as the motions of water on the earth, due to the attraction of sun and moon. There were places where lunar tides vanished altogether, and where there was only a rise and fall once in the solar day, or twice in the solar day. There were places where the water rose and fell according to the sun, and not according to the moon; but such functions were modified by local causes. In the theory of tides proper, there was also a solar annual tide, and again a solar semi-annual tide. The first rough view of the theory of the tide-generating force was that the moon attracted the waters of the earth toward herself, and heaped them up on this side of the earth. That was not so; it would be so if the earth and the moon were stuck on the two ends of a strong bar and put at rest in peace, but there was no such rigid bar.

Why did not the moon fall toward the earth? According to Newton's theory, the moon is always doing so. Newton compared the fall of the moon with the fall of a stone at the earth's surface. Why did it not come down? Could it be always falling and never come down? That seemed impossible. It was always falling, but it had a motion perpendicular to the direction in which it was falling, and the result of continual falling was simply a change of direction of its motion. That was simply the dynamical theory of centrifugal force. If a stone were thrown horizontally it descended in a parabola, the stone falling away from the line in which it was thrown; so it was with the moon. It was seen always to be falling from the present direction and from the further altered line, and so it might be falling and never coming down. The parts of the moon nearest to the earth were falling most rapidly, the parts further from the earth the least rapidly. Each preserved a constant distance, from the common center of gravity of the two. The earth experienced according to its mass a force depending on the average distance. The result clearly was then a tendency toward the moon and from the moon, and thus, in a necessarily imperfect manner, he had explained how it was that the waters were not heaped up on the side next to the moon, but were drawn toward the moon, and fell away from the moon, so as to tend to form an oval figure.

We wonder if anybody ever picked up a tear that was dropped.

Selection of a Farm.

The size of a farm should be suited to the capacity of the pocket-book. Many young farmers make the mistake of buying a large farm with little money to pay for it. There is nothing that so binds a man as a heavy mortgage. It eats the very heart out of the farmer and hangs like a leaden weight upon every aspiration of his wife and children. It is better to buy a small farm and have enough capital to work it well. As the surplus increases, it may be invested in more acres, or in a better culture of those that have already proved profitable. There is a size below which many of the economies of the farm cannot be practiced to the best advantage, and on the other hand there is danger of going beyond that acreage where the most profitable farming may be carried on. It requires considerable executive ability to manage a large farm, and therefore many men are excluded from such by a lack which they may not fully appreciate until the trial has been made and the failure recorded. Farming is not like the taking of a citadel, and cannot be done successfully with a rush and a noise. It is a thoughtful and steady working out from well-laid plans—a conquest for crops, and the head must be clear that wins where the seat of a campaign for a lifetime covers townships or even square miles. The soil is the foundation of farming, and it should be fitted to the kinds of crops that it is desired to raise. The differences in the nature and capacities of sand and clay should be understood, and a favorable mixture of the two obtained if there is an opportunity for choosing. A rich soil,—with proper management, means good crops at once, but it may be as profitable to invest much less in an equal area of over-cropped land, and bring it up to a high state of cultivation by green manuring and other methods of restoration. The farm house is to be the home of the family, and, therefore, the locality for the farm should be healthful. The richest land for the price may be on the border of a malaria-breeding swamp, but the profits of the investment may be more than balanced by the doctor's bills and loss of time, not to mention the discomfort of fevers in the household. It is important that there be an abundant water supply on all farms, both for the family and the live-stock. There are social considerations that no farmer should overlook in making a choice of a farm. He lives not to himself alone; the children need the privileges of good schools, etc.; in short, the community should be one in which sympathy, goodness and intelligence prevail.

With a good farm of proper size, healthfully located, abundantly supplied with water, good neighbors, and a handy market, a man is so well situated that he ought to make himself and those around him happy. Choose well, and hold on to the choice.—*American Agriculturist for November.*

The Money Order System---Plans For its Perfection.

The superintendent of the money order division of the postoffice department sent out recently an order that hereafter, when a money order has remained in a postoffice sixty days without pay being demanded, the postmaster shall send a private notice to the payee, if his address is known, informing him of the fact and giving the name and address of the remitter. The payee is requested by the circular to present the corresponding order for payment, if it is in his possession; or if it has not been received to obtain it, if practicable, from the remitter, and in the event of its loss in transit or otherwise, to suggest to the remitter that he make an application for a duplicate.

This circular is a new departure in the money order division, and is one that ought to have been made years ago. Had it been adopted on the start, there would not now be in the treasury to the credit of the money order system the great sum of over a million and a quarter of dollars, the accretion of money orders remaining unpaid. Not a dollar of this fund belongs to the government. It belongs to people who paid for orders, which largely through the defects of the postal system, did not reach the persons to whom they were sent. If may safely be said that nine-tenths of this sum could have been made to reach the payees, or could have been returned to the remitters, had not a policy of concealment been adopted. Instead of seeking earnestly either to pay the money to the payees or return it to the remitters, a rule was adopted forbidding a postmaster, under penalty of dismissal, to furnish the information now ordered to be given by the new circular.

If the department is content with the present step, it will fail to do all that it should do to stop such a wrongful detention of the people's money. It is evident that the payee of an unpaid order may be out of reach after sixty days, and so may never receive his notice. In such a case, after the lapse of another thirty days, the remitter should be notified that the money he has deposited remains unpaid. As of course the payee has the first claim to payment, it would be necessary to provide that some set time—perhaps six months additional—should elapse before a repayment was made to the remitter.

Nor should the effort to be honest stop here. Every means should be taken by publication of lists and otherwise faithfully to disburse the fund now on hand before passing a law to cover it into the treasury. In every other respect the money order system, under the supervision of D. C. F. McDonald, is a model of precision and effectiveness, and even in the matter of this lapsed order fund it is probably less at fault than any other system in the world, and the step it has taken is one in advance of most other systems. But nothing can be said in favor of covering such a fund into the treasury until every means has been exhausted to find the real owners of it.—*Washington Cor. New York Evening Post.*

Kalamazoo, Mich., is one of the greatest celery raising centers of the United States as regards both quantity and quality of the vegetable produced.

☞ Explicit directions for every use are given with the Diamond Dyes. For Dyeing Mosses, Grasses, Eggs, Ivory, Hair, etc.